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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the roots of minority underperformance in selected colleges and universities. Drawing on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen, the study developed a comprehensive analysis of the pathways by which students of differing backgrounds enter higher education in the United States. The chapters are: (1) "The Puzzle of Minority Underachievement"; (2) "Sample and Methodology"; (3) "Family Origins"; (4) "Neighborhood Background"; (5) "Prior Educational Experiences"; (6) "The Social World of High School"; (7) "Racial Identity and Attitudes"; (8) "Pathways to Preparation"; (9) "Sink or Swim: The First Semester"; and (10) "Lessons Learned." One appendix contains a discussion of the first wave of the student survey, and the other contains a discussion of the construction of social scales. (Contains 78 tables, 19 figures, and 162 references.) (SLD)

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